

An advocate for people with disabilities, Deborah Kendrick of Cincinnati, recently wrote that supporting the U.N. Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities is “the good old-fashioned right thing to do.”

She is absolutely right. The CRPD is an antidiscrimination treaty, a civil rights issue, a human rights issue. It embraces the values of our own Americans with Disabilities Act.

It will not affect U.S. law and does not infringe upon U.S. sovereignty. Ratifying this treaty does allow us to reassert our leadership globally on disability rights. It will give us a seat at the table as parties to the convention grapple with how best to implement it. This treaty is important for Americans with disabilities, including soldiers and veterans when they work abroad, study abroad or simply travel abroad. That is why I urge my colleagues to join in ratifying this treaty, to stand up for people with disabilities in Ohio, throughout America, and around the world.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The assistant bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DAVID BETTS DOUBLE PLAY DIAMOND

Mr. BROWN of Ohio. Madam President, I rise to commemorate the grand opening of the David Betts Double Play Diamond, which will take place a week from today in Bryan, OH.

As the result of a community's commitment to working together, an unused farm field will soon cultivate the next generation of Bryan-area baseball players—nourishing friendships and supporting sportsmanship.

This new indoor field in Williams County honors the life of an extraordinary young Ohioan.

David Betts would have been 26 years old on December 10, 2012, the day that this field will open for members of the entire Bryan community to enjoy.

David, the beloved son of John and Joy, died in a March 2007 motorcoach accident along with other members of the Bluffton University baseball team in Atlanta, GA.

He was a graduate of Bryan High School.

After this tragedy, John and Joy Betts made a promise that David's

death—and the loss of four other players and the bus driver and his wife—would not be in vain.

Out of the Bluffton bus tragedy—and other tragedies like it—Senator HUTCHISON and I introduced the Motorcoach Enhanced Safety Act—to help prevent the loss of life on our nation's roadways.

President Obama signed the bill into law earlier this year to ensure that tour buses are equipped with seatbelts, stronger roofs, safer windows, and drivers that are better trained.

This safety bill was written with the support of the Betts Family, the Bryan community, and a national community of people who have lost loved ones in motorcoach crashes.

Some 5 years later, this close-knit Ohio community also has a tangible monument in memory of one of their sons.

May the David Betts Double Play Diamond serve as a remembrance to this wonderful young man and help this community continue to heal and move forward.

HONOR FLIGHT OF NORTHERN COLORADO

Mr. UDALL of Colorado. Mr. President, I rise today to pay tribute to the military service of a group of remarkable Coloradans. At critical times in our Nation's history, these veterans played a role in defending the world from tyranny, truly earning their reputation as guardians of democracy and peace through their service and sacrifice. Now, thanks to an organization dedicated to honoring those who have defended us abroad, these great Coloradans have come to Washington, D.C. to visit the national memorials built to honor their service, to share their experiences with later generations, and to pay tribute to those who gave their lives. It was an honor to have them here, and I join with all Coloradans in thanking them for all they have done for us.

I also want to say a word about the volunteers from Honor Flight of Northern Colorado who made this trip possible. They are great Coloradans in their own right, and their mission to bring our Northern Colorado veterans to Washington, D.C. is truly commendable. They have been doing great work since their inception in 2008 and their flight in September brought another group of American heroes to Washington, D.C. The volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado believe our veteran heroes aren't asking for recognition, but they certainly deserve it. This opportunity to come to Washington is just a small token of appreciation for those who gave so much.

I want to publicly recognize the members of the Northern Colorado Honor Flight who are visiting their Nation's capital today, many seeing for the first time the memorials that stand as a tribute to their selfless service. These Coloradans risked their lives to

defend freedom, and they have earned our deepest respect. I rise today to thank the veterans of Northern Colorado Honor Flight, and pause to remember those who laid down their lives for us all. I would like to read the names of all those who made this visit to our Nation's capital and to each of them, I say thank you.

Veterans from World War II include: Willard Bauer, Robert Bell, Edward Coleman, Floyd Ewing, Albert Fairweather, Marvin Fowler, Elwyn Frazier, Robert Fulton, William Garcia, Edward Glover, Herold Hettinger, Raymond Holiday, Buford Johnson, William Kammade, Donald Lawless, Russell Maxwell, Dale Norwood, Philip Owen, Paul Painter, George Parker, Theodore Pratt, Henry Redd, Kenneth Robb, Harley Rouze, Harold Scatterday, Dean Severin, Leonie Shannon, Keith Simons, Jacob Stieb Jr., Howard Teague, Margaret Thompson, Charles Vogel, Thomas Weathers, Victor Weidmann, Milo Whitcomb, John Williams, and Quentin Younglund. Veterans from the Korean War include:

Bobby Andersen, Emmett Achuletta, Donald Armagost, Robert Arnbrecht, Gary Beverlin, Stanley Black, Ronald Brasseur, Earl Buckendorf, Robert Buttner, Donald Campbell, Clarence Carnes, Jerald Clark, Robert Clayton, Keith Coates, Kenneth Comin, Victor Crenshaw, Dean Daggett, Lester Edgett, Arnold Engele, Roy Erickson, William Erickson, Bernard Erthal, Donald Fenske, Donald Fickenschier, Russell Foster, Franklin Fronek, Porfello Garbiso, William Goble, Carl Goeglein, Delbert Gorsline, George Gray, Kenneth Hoff, Robert Hull, Robert Jones Jr., George Knaub, Arthur Kober, John Leach, Roger London, Willard Loose, Joseph Lopez, Arthur Lukemire, Charles Mahoney, Eathon Marr, Vernon Marston, Robert Martin, George Maxey, Loren Maxey, and Albert Melcher.

Veterans who served in Vietnam include:

Leonard Beutelspacher, John Gruver, Gaylord Mekelburg, and Cloyd Rael.

And from the War in Iraq:

Marshall Spring

Our Nation asked a great deal of these individuals. They left their families to fight in distant lands against our nation's enemies. And each of these brave Coloradans bravely answered the call, placing themselves between this country and harm. They served our country through dangerous times, when democratic nations and ideals around the world were threatened, and they saved millions of people from falling to fascism and tyranny.

Please join me in thanking these American veterans and the volunteers of Honor Flight of Northern Colorado for their tremendous service to an eternally grateful nation.

REMEMBERING LARRY HAGMAN

Mrs. BOXER. Mr. President, today I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Larry Hagman, who passed away